

## Fact Sheet

### SAVANNAH RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FIELD STATION

#### Background:

- The Savannah River Environmental Field Station was established in 1997 through a cooperative agreement between South Carolina State University and the USDA Forest Service, Savannah River. The initial idea originated from a capacity building grant funded by the USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
- The program goals are to redirect minority students into environmental science, marine science, environmental engineering, natural resources management, and agriculture 2) to increase minority students' understanding of complex environmental issues 3) to increase the ability of minority students to pursue advanced degrees in natural resource management, and in environmental, marine and agricultural sciences 4) and to increase the ability of these students to pursue professional careers in environmental, natural resource and agricultural areas.
- The Field Station provides hands-on field-oriented experiences (courses and research) for undergraduate students enrolled primarily at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority Serving Institutions. There are a total of 22 HBCUs and 7 majority institutions in Field Station membership.
- Participating South Carolina schools include 6 HBCUs plus the University of South Carolina at Columbia, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina at Aiken. Georgia schools include 8 HBCUs plus the University of Georgia, Augusta State University, Gainesville College, and Mercer University. North Carolina schools include 5 HBCUs and other HBCUs from other states include Tuskegee University, Alabama; Tennessee State University, Tennessee; and Florida A&M University, Florida.
- The Field Station offers undergraduate research and 13 undergraduate courses in environmental and marine sciences in the summer
- Student participants can enroll in multi-week summer programs or participate in summer research. They receive stipend and academic credits. Twelve 4-credit and one 3-credit classes are offered each summer. Credits earned are transferred to the student's home institution in the fall
- One-day field education trips are offered in the academic year to all member institutions.

#### Funding Profile:

	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
DOE	\$117,500	\$117,500	\$124,500	\$120,000
South Carolina State University	\$66,800	\$51,600	\$ 53,300	\$ 51,600
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	0
USDA Forest Service (Civil Rights)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	0
DOC-NOAA (Marine Environ. Sci.)	0	0	\$250,000	\$250,000
USDA Capacity Building-Undergraduate Res.	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total	<u>\$534,300</u>	<u>\$519,100</u>	<u>\$777,800</u>	<u>\$621,600</u>

#### Results:

- 414 students have participated in credit-earning courses and earned a total of 1619 academic credits since 1998
- 1439 students have participated in one-day field trips since 1998
- 150 students have participated in summer research opportunities
- 45 secondary education science and math teachers have participated in one-day field visits
- over 75 students have gone on to graduate school and about 150 are working in environmental, agricultural or natural resource related fields.

### Examples of Field Station Success Stories:

**Paris Hawkins** – Paris now works for the USDA-APHIS at Atlanta International Air Port. He graduated four years ago and has quickly risen through the ranks. He is now at GS-11.

**Willene Hunter** – Willene graduated with in 1999 from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Environmental Management degree. She was introduced to environmental and natural resources at the Field Station during her undergraduate program at South Carolina State University.

**Drena Howard** – Drena is now at Yale University pursuing the degree of Master of Environmental Management at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

**Aaron White** – Aaron is at Florida A & M University pursuing the Master of Science degree in marine science. The Field Station introduced him to environmental science

**Latrincy Whitehurst** – Like Aaron, Latrincy is at Florida A & M University working towards a master of science degree in marine science

**Angel Wynn** – Angel is also at Florida A & M University pursuing the master of science degree in marine science

**Ethel Veeren** – Ethel is in the Master of Science program in environmental toxicology at the University of Georgia

There are several other success stories about students who were introduced to environmental science and natural resource management at the Field Station during their undergraduate programs. All these students enrolled in science to pursue careers in medicine.

### Some quotes from students who attended Field Station programs:

- “DOE and SCSU should have started this earlier. This course is cool”
- “The Introduction to Environmental Science course was informative and interesting”
- “Field Station programs are very positive that I would love to come back and/or work with DOE projects that involve 1890 and this program”
- “This program has the ability to make you become interested even if you were not seeking any interest at all”
- “At the Field Station you learn without realizing it. When you are tested it seems as if everything spilled unto the paper”
- “I enjoyed this class and this place makes learning interesting and interactive”
- “I wish I had come in previous years without waiting till my senior year”
- “The classes here do more work in one month than an entire one regular academic semester”
- “I only wish we had more time to work with university faculty and DOE engineers and scientists”
- “Teaching methods at the Field Station are quite effective. The hands-on influenced me to try harder in class”